

when I was young, which was many years ago, any broadcast media was required to maintain political neutrality. Public service was one of the major requirements of stations broadcasting without charge over the public airwaves. How sad it is that I can no longer trust that the information I am receiving from broadcasters is actually news, and not political opinion or rhetoric, or worse, smears and untruths.

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.